Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 SY-05 USSS-00 SR-02 ORM-01

EUR-12 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCA-01

SCS-03 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /117 W

----- 099683

R 120835Z MAY 75 FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7049 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: INCREASED TERRORIST ACTIVITY

1. SUMMARY: STEPPED-UP TERRORIST ACTIVITY HAS GIVEN ISRAELI SECURITY AUTHORITIES A BAD WEEK IN WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM. MAJOR EVENTS WERE KILLING OF ISRAELI TRUCK DRIVER NEAR JENIN, BURNING OF EGGED BUS IN RAMALLAH AND DERAILING OF TRAIN ABOUT EIGHT MILES WEST OF JERUSAELM. MURDER OF NABLUS TAXI DRIVER MAY ALSO HAVE HAD TERRORIST MOTIVATION. IN ADDITION, SMALL EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE FOUND AND DISARMED IN ORTHODOX MEA SHEARIM QUARTER OF JERUSALEM, HEBRON LABOR EXCHANGE, AND ARMY PATROL ROAD NEAR HEBRON. END SUMMARY.

2. TRUCK DRIVER WAS SHOT MAY 6 AFTER HAVING DELIVERED ARAB WORKERS TO HOMES AND VILLAGES NEAR JENIN. DRIVER WAS SHOT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBUSH AND VEHICLE BURNED CURFEW WAS IMPOSED ON NEIGHBORING

VILLAGES. JERUSALEM POST REPORTS SOME JENIN WORKERS STAYED AWAY FROM JOBS IN ISRAEL AS A RESULT.

- 3. IN RAMALLAH INCIDENT MAY 10, EMPTY EGGED BUS PARKED IN CENTER OF TOWN WAS SET AFIRE AND GUTTED AT ABOUT NOON. THERE WERE NO INJURIES. POLICE CLOSED OFF CENTRAL RAMALLAH FOR A TIME IN SEARCH FOR PERPETRATORS.
- 4. ON FOLLOWING DAY, MAY 11, FREIGHT TRAIN EN ROUTE TO JERUSALEM WAS DERAILED AS IT PASSED THROUGH STEEP WEST BANK VALLEY NEAR TOWN OF BAR GIORA. SECTION OF RAIL HAD BEEN REMOVED IN WHAT ONE ISRAELI JOURNALIST DESCRIBED TO US AS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL OPERATION. THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INJURIES AND ONLY LOCOMOTIVE WENT OFF TRACK.
- 5. IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC INCIDENTS, JERUSALEM POST OF MAY 8 REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMBER OF SABOTAGE ACTS AGAINST PROPERTY OF ARAB NOTABLES IN NORTHERN WEST BANK WHICH NOTABLES HAD FAILED TO REPORT.
- 6. COMMENT: MOST OF THESE INCIDENTS WERE PLANNED ACTS OF SABOTAGE OR TERROR AND RELECT GENERALLY INCREASED FREOUENCY OF SUCH ACTIVITIES OVER RECENT MONTHS. BUS INCIDENT, PRESUMABLY A SPUR OF THE MOMENT ACTION, HAD IN ONE SENSE MORE TROUBLESOME IMPLICATIONS FOR ISRAELIS. SETTING FIRE TO ISRAELI BUS AT NOON IN CENTER OF CITY SEEMS TO CONFIRM REPORTS WE HAVE HAD OF HEIGHTENED AND MORE OPEN ANTI-ISRAELI SENTIMENT IN THIS LARGELY CHRISTIAN MUNICIPALITY. WHILE RAMALLAH MAY BE OUT IN FRONT IN THIS RESPECT, WE SENSE SOME INCREASE PUBLIC HOSTILITY TOWARDS ISRAELIS IN JERUSALEM AND ELSEWHERE ON THE WEST BANK. WHAT WE MAY BE SEEING, OF COURSE, IS GREATER BOLDNESS OF ARABS IN EXPRESSING A HOSTILITY THAT HAS BEEN PRESENT ALL ALONG, POLITICAL SPEECHES BY NOTABLES AT MAY 11 RELIGIOUS AFFAIR IN BEIT SAHUR (SEPTEL) REPRESENT ANOTHER ASPECT OF SAME PHENOMENON. DAY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review

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